on December 15, 2000, which is related to Divisional Application No. 09/736,442 filed on December 15, 2000, which is related to Divisional Application No. 09/846,207 filed on May 2, 2001, all of which are reissue applications of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,576.---

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 7 and 8.

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1 (Twice Amended). A method of encoding a local time base of a visual sequence in [the] compressed data comprising [the steps of]:

obtaining instances of the visual sequence by temporal sampling;

determining the local time base of the [said] instances to be encoded into the compressed data;

encoding the [said] local time base in two parts, comprising of a modulo time base that marks the occurrence of a set of time reference spaced evenly at a specific interval on the local time base and a time base increment relative to the [said] evenly spaced time reference;

inserting the modulo time base into the compressed data whenever the specific interval [have] has elapsed; and

inserting the time base increment within the compressed data of the [said] instances of the visual sequence.

2 (Amended). A method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of compressed bitstreams

containing local time base information encoded therein are multiplexed and de-multiplexed, for de-multiplexing further comprising [the step of]:

decoding the time base offset of the individual compressed bitstream;

examining the multiplexed bitstream for the next compressed instance and placing the [said] instance into the appropriate compressed bitstream until a modulo time base is encountered in the multiplexed bitstream;

inserting a modulo time base to each of the compressed bitstreams; and

repeating the [last two steps] examining the multiplexed bitstream for the next compressed instance and placing the instance into the appropriate compressed bitstream until a modulo time base is encountered in the multiplexed bitstream, and inserting a modulo time base to each of the compressed bitstreams until the multiplexed bitstream is exhausted.

Q2

3 (Twice Amended). A method of decoding a local time base of a visual sequence from the time base of the compressed data encoded according to claim 1, comprising [the steps of]:

initializing the reference time base taking into account the time base offset;

incrementing the reference time base by a specific interval for each modulo time base decoded;

decoding the time base increment of the compressed instance; and

determining the decoding time base of the [said] instance by adding the [said] decoded time base increment value to the reference time base.